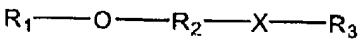
1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):

~~(I)~~

~~wherein:~~



(I)

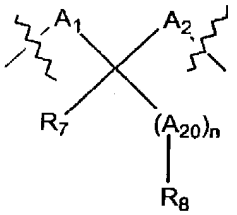
wherein:

R_1 is aryl;

R_2 is a group of formula (II):

~~(II)~~

~~wherein~~



(II)

wherein

A_1, A_2, and A_{20} are each independently alkylene or substituted alkylene;

n is 0 ~~or 1~~;

R_7 is hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl;

R_8 is $NR_{10}R_{11}$, wherein each of R_{10} and R_{11} is independently hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl; and

X is a direct bond and R_3 is an N-linked heteroaryl or an N-linked ~~heterocycle~~ 5-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least 1 nitrogen atom;

wherein any aryl of R_1-R_3 can optionally be substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents R_g; wherein each R_g is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkyl,

substituted alkyl, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, substituted cycloalkoxy, methanediol, ethanediol, cycloalkyl, ~~substituted alkyl~~, substituted alkoxy, substituted cycloalkyl, amino, substituted amino, aryl, aryloxy, carboxy, carboxylalkyl, carboxyl(substituted alkyl), cyano, halo, nitro, heteroaryl, heteroaryloxy, heterocyclic, heterocyclooxy, heteroaryl and trihalomethyl;

and wherein any heteroaryl of R_2-R_3 can be optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents R_h, wherein each R_h is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, substituted cycloalkoxy, substituted alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, amino, substituted amino, aryl, aryloxy, carboxyl, carboxylalkyl, carboxyl(substituted alkyl), cyano, halo, nitro, heterocyclic, and trihalomethyl.

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is aryl optionally substituted with one or more halo or alkyl.

3. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_1 is 2-methylphenyl, 2-chloro-6-methylphenyl, 2,4,6-trifluorophenyl, 2,6-dimethylphenyl, or 2,4-dimethylphenyl.

4. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein A_1 is methylene or 1,1-ethanediyl, and A_2 is methylene.

5. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_7 is hydrogen or methyl.

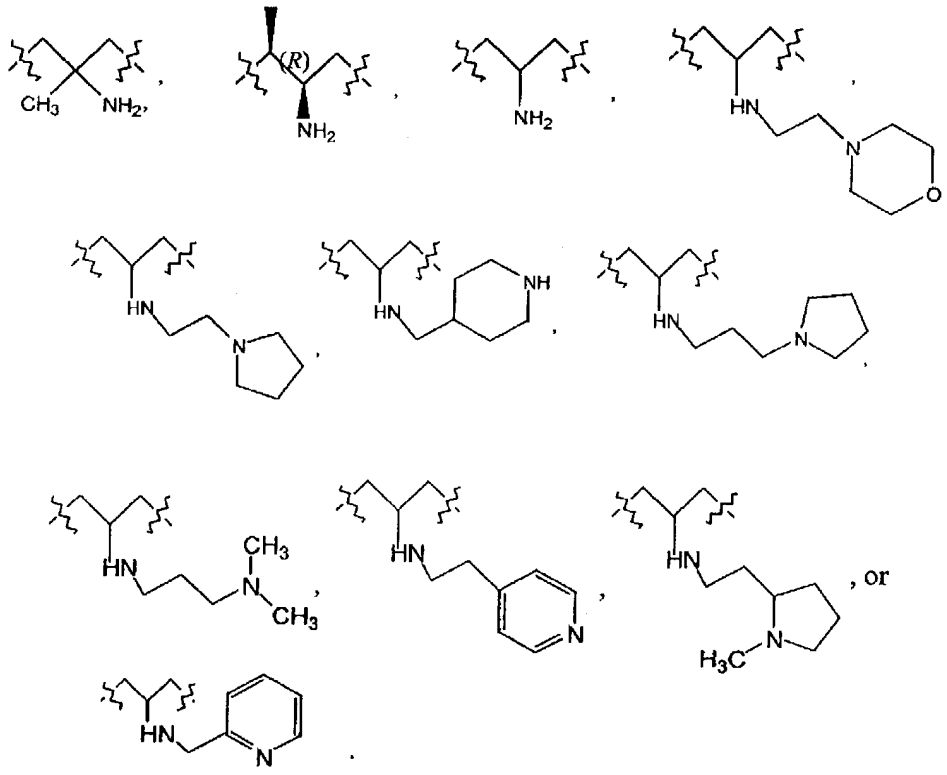
6. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_8 is amino.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_8 is $NR_{10}R_{11}$; and R_{11} is heterocyclealkyl, heteroarylalkyl, or alkyl.

9. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_8 is $NR_{10}R_{11}$; R_{10} is hydrogen; and R_{11} is 2-morpholinoethyl, 2-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)ethyl, 4-piperidinylmethyl, 3-(*N,N*-dimethylamino)propyl, 2-(1-methyl-pyrrolidin-2-yl)ethyl, 2-(4-pyridyl)ethyl, or 3-(pyrrolidin-1-yl)propyl.

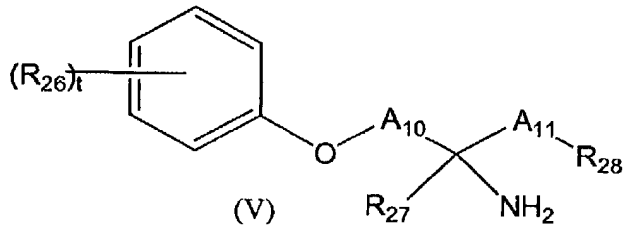
10. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein R_2 is a group of the formula:



11. (original) The compound of claim 1 wherein X is a direct bond and R_3 is 3,5-dimethylpyrazol-1-yl, 2-phenylimidazol-1-yl, 2-ethylimidazol-1-yl, 1-benzimidazolyl, 4-(methoxycarbonyl)imidazol-1-yl, 4-methyl-2-ethylimidazol-1-yl, or 4-phenyl-1-imidazol-1-yl.

Claims 12-19 (canceled).

20. (withdrawn, currently amended) The compound of claim 1 which is a compound of formula (V):



(V)

wherein:

A_{10} and A_{11} are each independently alkylene or substituted alkylene;

each R_{26} is independently halo, alkyl, substituted alkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, cycloalkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, heterocycle, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, substituted cycloalkoxy, trifluoromethyl, cyano, nitro, hydroxy, NR_4R_5, or CO_2R_6;

R_{27} is hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl;

R_{28} is an N-linked heteroaryl or an N-linked ~~heterocycle~~ 5-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least 1 nitrogen atom;

t is 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5; and

R_4-R_6 are each independently hydrogen, alkyl, or substituted alkyl;

and wherein any heteroaryl of R_{28} can be optionally substituted with 1 to 5 substituents R_h, wherein each R_h is independently selected from the group consisting of hydroxy, alkyl, alkoxy, substituted alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, substituted cycloalkoxy, substituted alkyl, arylalkyl, heteroarylalkyl, heterocyclealkyl, substituted cycloalkyl, amino, substituted amino, aryl, aryloxy, carboxyl, carboxylalkyl, carboxyl(substituted alkyl), cyano, halo, nitro, heterocyclic, and trihalomethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

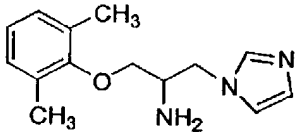
21. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 20 wherein A_{10} is methylene and A_{11} is methylene.

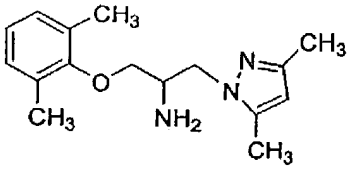
22. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 20 wherein R_{27} is hydrogen or methyl.

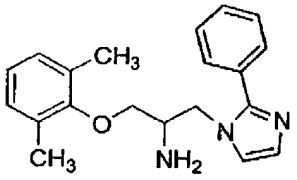
23. (withdrawn) The compound of claim 20 wherein R_{28} is 3,5-dimethylpyrazol-1-yl, 2-phenylimidazol-1-yl, 2-ethylimidazol-1-yl, 1-benzimidazolyl, 4-(methoxycarbonyl)-imidazol-1-yl, 4-methyl-2-ethylimidazol-1-yl, or 4-phenyl-1-imidazol-1-yl.

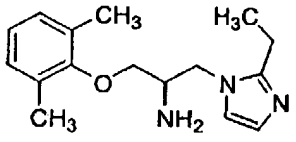
Claims 24-27 (canceled)

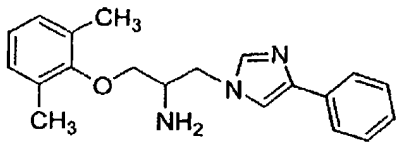
28. (previously amended) The compound of claim 1, which is a compound selected from the group consisting of:

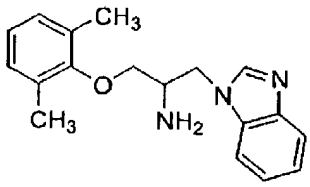
(30) 

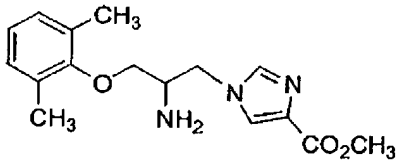
(31) 

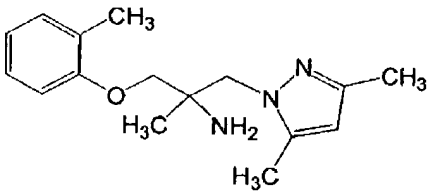
(32) 

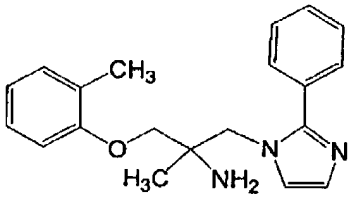
(33) 

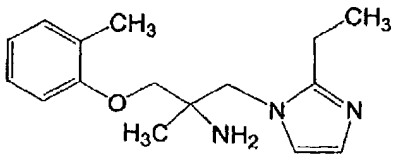
(34) 

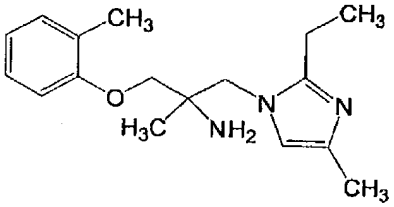
(35) 

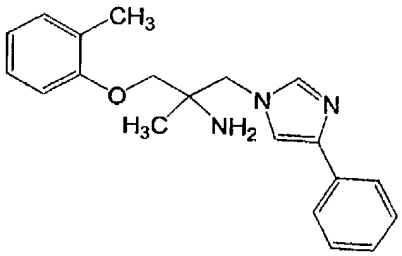
(36) 

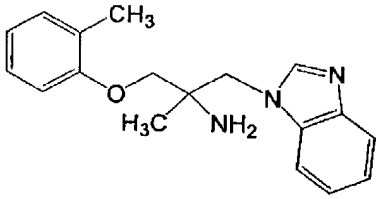
(47) 

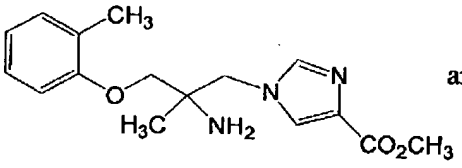
(48) 

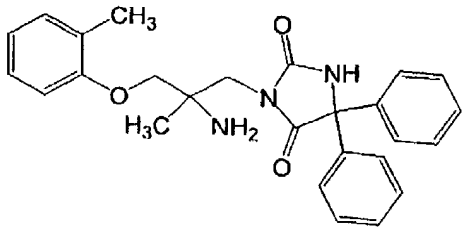
(49) 

(50) 

(51) 

(52) 

(53)  and

(92) 

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

29. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as described in claim 1; and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

30. (withdrawn) A method of treating a disease or condition associated with sodium channel activity in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal, a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as described in claim 1.

31. (withdrawn) The method of claim 30 wherein the disease or condition is neuropathic pain.

32. (withdrawn) A method of treating a disease or condition associated with sodium channel activity in a mammal, comprising administering to the mammal, a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 29.

33. (withdrawn) The method of claim 32 wherein the disease or condition is neuropathic pain.